Hist. of the Netherlands vol 2.
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A RELATION

Of the

Great and Wonderful

INUNDATION

OF WATERS

IN

North-holland, *Waterland*, &c.

Whereby not onely the City of *Amsterdam* hath Received many Millions of Damage in Marchandize, Housing, and Shipping, &c. but also many Hundreds of Men, Women, and Children have perished therein.

Confirmed by the Letters and Reports of Several the Most Eminent Merchants and Persons of Credit now Living in those Parts.

With Allowance.

Printed for I. Berriff, 1675.

A COPY OF A LETTER From an Eminent Engliſh Merchant

Reſiding in *Amſterdam*, to a perſon of Quality in *London*, bearing Date the 6th. of *November*, 1675. *Stilo Novo.*

SIR,

I Have great reaſon to be heartily ſorry, not onely for my ſelf and many others here, but alſo for the concern of ſeveral Gentlemen who have an intereſt and correſpondence here, though they inhabit other places; That I muſt give you the ſad relation of the unfortunateſt accident, and of the greateſt damage that ever happened in theſe parts by inundation of Waters. For it pleaſed God that on laſt Saturday Night a moſt furious North-Weſt wind did blow ſo hard as to force the Sea, with the Spring Tides over, and break down our Banks, Dikes, and Sluces into the Country; inſomuch that not only North-Holland, which we hear is all overflow'd and quite drownd, but alſo Haerlem Muyden, and this City have received the conſiderableſt loſſes that they ever yet ſuſtained; for the Haerlemmer-Meer breaking in upon us filled moſt of our ſtreets and Burgh-walls, with

ſuch flood of water that our Kelders, Ware-houſes, and our lower-Rooms are all under water, nay, even to the Statt-Houſe it ſelf, whereby not onely the goods and Merchandizes therein are ſpoiled, and ſo much indamag'd that no credible computation can as yet be given what exceeding detriment this City alone hath thereby ſuſtained; many millions already beſides the irrepairable loſs of many hundreds of Men, Women, and Children, who have periſhed already in this ſecond deluge.

And the Almighty God alone knoweth when we ſhall ſee end of our Miſeries; for the Waters as yet rather increaſe then abate; I my ſelf am forced to remove out of my Houſe for my own and Families ſecurities, and yet know not well where to go to be free from danger, having already ſuffered damage for my own friends and correſpondents accounts to the value of 200000 Guilders in my Sellars and Ware-houſes that I know of; and what is not yet come to my knowledge; and what may happen no Man can imagine, but God's will be done; It is a ſad thing to be confined to live in a Country ſituated ſo low, that a Man muſt be beholding to the Trench of the banks, for the ſecurity of his life and fortune; for if at any time the great Dike between *Harlem* and *Amſterdam* give way, (as it has many times done within theſe few years) the whole Country again becomes that Sea which once it was; nor are we expoſed onely to accident, but even to the malice of our enemies, and (which has been as fatal to us as any thing) our own convenience, of which this laſt war has given ſevere Teſtimonies, wherein you know the inhabitants of theſe parts have been almoſt as ſevere to themſelves for their preſervation; and this very inundation which looks ſo like deſtruction; but I believe 'twill be no advantage to you, and I am ſure it is no way pleaſant to me to enlarge my ſelf upon our misfortunes; I ſhall only add that amidſt them all, I am

SIR,

Your moſt Humble

Obliged Servant

J. W.

Poſcript.

SIR,

I Had almoſt forgotten to acquaint you that by reaſon of theſe great Floods, all the inhabitants of this place are ſo ſeverely afflicted with colds, that many families are forced to ſhut up their Shops, having no body to follow their employments.

Vale.